



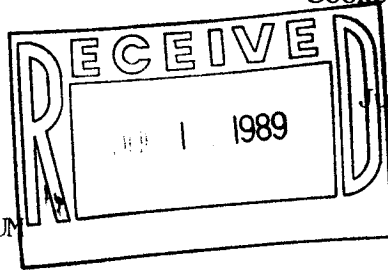
United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 845

Cookeville, TN 38503

File Reelfoot NWR
TAKE
PRIDE IN
AMERICA



July 12, 1989

MEMORANDUM

To: Chief, Division of Realty, FWS, Region 4, Atlanta, GA

From: Acting Field Supervisor, FWS/FWE, TN/KY Field Office, Cookeville, TN

Subject: Pre-Acquisition Contaminant Survey For Lands Proposed For
Inclusion Within Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges

We have attached a copy of the subject report for your decision document regarding the purchase of additional lands for Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges.

On a related matter, we are currently working on a pre-acquisition contaminant survey for Columbus Bottoms (Mississippi River bottoms area in Carlisle County, KY). We hope to have it completed in two to three weeks.

Please contact Mark Wilson, our staff contaminant specialist, if you have any questions or comments concerning this report.

Bruce G. Halstead

Attachment

cc: Reelfoot Lake NWR, Union City, TN
Migratory Bird Field Coordinator, Memphis, TN
Land Acquisition Biologist, Jackson, MS
Fish and Wildlife Enhancement, Regional Office, Atlanta, GA
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Nashville, TN
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, KY

PRE-ACQUISITION SURVEY REPORT

PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT PROBLEMS
THAT MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH LANDS PROPOSED FOR INCLUSION WITHIN
REELFOOT & LAKE ISOM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Prepared By:

Fish and Wildlife Enhancement
Cookeville, Tennessee Field Office

July 1989

Introduction

This is a preliminary evaluation of contaminant-related issues associated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) proposal to acquire approximately 4,300 acres in Fulton County, Kentucky, along with an estimated 3,000 acres in Lake County and 3,300 acres in Obion County in Tennessee, for inclusion into Reelfoot & Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges (NWR). The information and conclusions contained in this report are based upon discussion and correspondence with federal and state agencies as well as an onsite survey conducted by FWS personnel. This report was prepared to fulfill the requirements of DOI Secretarial Order 3127: Delegations and Assignments of Functions With Regard to Land Acquisition.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The Atlanta Regional Office (Region IV) of the EPA was contacted to determine if any Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) or Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) sites were known to exist on or adjacent to the areas proposed for acquisition. Presently, there are no Superfund sites in Fulton County, Kentucky. There are two Superfund sites in Obion County and one in Lake County, Tennessee. These are briefly discussed below.

Superfund (CERCLA) Sites

Waymatic Welding - South Fulton, Obion County, Tennessee

This site is located on old U.S. Highway 51 near South Fulton, Tennessee, approximately 25 miles from the refuge area. This is a small site involving some paint solvents and should not have an effect upon the lands proposed for acquisition.

Goodyear Tire and Rubber - Union City, Obion County, Tennessee

This site is located northeast of Union City, behind the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Plant. The site was farmland prior to its purchase by Goodyear in 1968. The deposition of wastes on the site began in late 1968 and continued until 1978, when the site was closed. Types of waste deposited included demolition and construction debris, junk machinery, defective tires, and manufacturing wastes which included grinder dust sludge (rubber particles mixed with water), spent cleaning solutions, solvents and waste lubrication oils. The liquids were reportedly placed in drums and buried. Total amounts are unknown.

Although the area has been referred to as a landfill, it is more properly described as a dump, as the wastes were never covered or capped and considerable amounts remain exposed on the surface. Furthermore, the wastes were placed in and across a shallow gully through which a small stream flows. The stream now infiltrates through the waste material and emerges to flow into Pursley Creek, a tributary to the Obion River.

Due to the fact that drainage from this site is southerly towards the Obion River rather than westward toward the refuge area, coupled with the fact that it is approximately 20 miles from this site to the nearest point of contact with lands proposed for acquisition, it seems

improbable that the Goodyear Tire and Rubber dump area would be a source of contaminant-related problems for the lands in question.

Tiptonville City Dump - Tiptonville, Lake County, Tennessee

This site is located 3.5 miles northwest of Tiptonville in the Mississippi River floodplain. In the spring of 1975, 25 gallons of polyvinylchloride (PVC) containing a lead stabilizer was dumped into the area. The location is within a few hundred yards of the Mississippi River on Marr Towhead which has been inundated several times since the reported dumping. A towhead is a low alluvial island or shoal in a river.

Since 1981, all PVC wastes produced by Ethyl Corporation, the company responsible for dumping the PVC wastes at the Tiptonville site, have been hauled to Emille, Alabama by a licensed hazardous waste hauler. Ethyl Corporation changed its name to Georgia Gulf Corporation in 1985.

Due to the fact that drainage around this former dump site is toward the Mississippi River rather than toward the refuge area, it seems unlikely that this site would be capable of causing any adverse impacts to the lands proposed for acquisition. Also, this site has been inundated several times by Mississippi River floodwater since the original PVC waste was dumped. There may be little of the original PVC waste material still present at the former dump site. The EPA currently does not plan any remedial action connected with this site.

RCRA Sites

The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulates private and government-operated facilities that generate, store, transport, treat and dispose of hazardous materials. This legislation is administered by the EPA and the States.

The EPA's records indicate that there is one RCRA facility in Fulton County, Kentucky, one site in Lake County, Tennessee, and 19 sites in Obion County, Tennessee. A list of RCRA sites is included in Appendix A. Eleven of the 19 RCRA sites in Obion County, Tennessee are located in Union City, three are located in South Fulton and five sites are in Kenton. With a few exceptions, most of the 19 RCRA sites listed by the EPA are small to medium-sized service operations such as vehicle maintenance shops, dry cleaners and chemical sales companies. All but one of the RCRA sites are located in or near towns that are a minimum of 15 miles distant from the lands proposed for acquisition. The other site, Georgia Gulf Corporation of Tiptonville, is located approximately five miles from the nearest point of contact with lands proposed for acquisition. Barring the unlikely situation of direct, illegal dumping of hazardous wastes, all 19 of the RCRA sites located in Fulton, Lake and Obion Counties are either located far enough away from areas proposed for acquisition or handle such small volumes of hazardous materials that they do not constitute a threat to Fish and Wildlife Service interests.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

On May 31, 1989, the Fish and Wildlife Service's Assistant Refuge Manager for Reelfoot NWR, along with the Contaminant Specialist from the Service's Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Office in Cookeville, Tennessee, conducted a cursory tour of the lands proposed for acquisition. Copies of the completed contaminant survey forms are included in Appendix B.

Most of the lands surveyed are presently in agricultural crop production, primarily wheat and soybeans. There are no industrial sites located on or near these lands. Several small dumps containing household solid waste were observed. All of these consisted of small quantities of cans, bottles, broken furniture, etc. One empty herbicide can was observed next to a small stream on the lands proposed for acquisition, north of the present Reelfoot NWR boundary. There were also several elevated fuel tanks and areas where farm machinery is parked or stored. However, there was nothing unusual about these areas and Service personnel located at the refuge are unaware of any contaminant-related problems connected with the areas the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to acquire.

Agricultural chemicals, including herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers are used on the lands proposed for acquisition. However, the Service is not aware of any contaminant-related wildlife or fish kills as a result of the use or misuse of these chemicals on these lands. The areas proposed for acquisition are typical of farmland in western Tennessee and the Service's onsite survey did not reveal any contaminant problems that should preclude acquisition.

Kentucky Department For Environmental Protection

On May 11, 1989, the Service's Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Office in Cookeville, Tennessee, received a telephone call from one of the Assistant Directors of the Kentucky Department For Environmental Protection. She reported that three separate divisions (Div. of Water, Waste Mgmt., and Air Quality) within the Department had reviewed the maps and background information the Service had provided to them regarding the Reelfoot & Lake Isom NWR Expansion Proposal. They did not find any contaminant-related issues or problems which should preclude the Service from acquiring the proposed lands.

Tennessee Department of Health and Environment (TDHE)

The Jackson Tennessee Regional Office of the TDHE was contacted regarding contaminant issues that their agency might be aware of connected with the Reelfoot & Lake Isom NWR expansion proposal. Personnel with the TDHE indicated that they were very familiar with all of the CERCLA sites (Goodyear Tire and Rubber, Tiptonville City Dump and Waymatic Welding) in Lake and Obion Counties in Tennessee. They expressed the opinion that all three of the previously-mentioned hazardous waste areas were located a sufficient distance away from lands that the Service is proposing to acquire to virtually eliminate the possibility of site-related contamination.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources

In a June 27, 1989 telephone conversation, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' officials indicated that they were unaware of any contaminant problems in Fulton County, Kentucky, in or near areas the Service is proposing to acquire. They noted that pesticides are used in the area proposed for acquisition and speculated that there may be a few places where farmers have let engine oil from farm machinery run out onto the ground. However, they indicated that these things are probably of minor consequence and should not deter the Service from acquiring the proposed lands.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA)

In a March 31, 1989 phone call, an official of the TWRA indicated that the agency had reviewed the maps and background information we had sent to them regarding the Reelfoot & Lake Isom NWR Expansion Proposal. They indicated that they had no records of contaminant-related problems on or near lands included in the Tennessee portion of the expansion proposal.

Summary and Conclusion

A preliminary preacquisition contaminant survey was conducted on several tracts of land proposed for inclusion into Reelfoot & Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges. The investigation consisted of interviews with state and federal agencies and a cursory reconnaissance of the acquisition areas. There were no samples collected or chemical analyses conducted.

This assessment revealed that hazardous waste contamination from either CERCLA or RCRA sites is unlikely to be a problem. All listed CERCLA and RCRA sites are far enough from proposed acquisition areas to be unlikely to constitute a threat. While it is impossible to rule out the chance that some presently undiscovered illegal dumping of hazardous wastes may have occurred, this appears to be the only way hazardous wastes (other than pesticides) might affect the areas proposed for acquisition. The probability that the lands in question have been subjected to illegal dumping of hazardous wastes is low enough that we do not believe it is necessary to conduct a contaminant assessment of soil and water samples to look for evidence of such activity.

The use of agricultural chemicals has occurred and continues to occur on most of the lands proposed for inclusion into the refuge system. The agencies we surveyed were not aware of any significant pesticide-related fish or wildlife kills on the lands in question. We assume that most of the ag chemical use is in accordance with all federal and state regulations and therefore, poses only a minor threat to most fish and wildlife.

We presume, based upon the information contained in this report, and a May 31, 1989 onsite inspection, that no significant contaminant-related problems exist on the lands proposed for inclusion into Reelfoot and Lake Isom National Wildlife Refuges. Therefore, we recommend that land acquisition procedures commence without further investigation of contaminant-related issues and/or problems.

I hearby certify that to the best of my knowledge, there are no significant problems or concerns involving contaminants which should preclude the Fish and Wildlife Service from purchasing the real estate reviewed in this report.

Signature: R. Mark Wilson

Name: R. Mark Wilson

Date: July 12, 1989

Title: Contaminant Specialist

Signature: Bruce Halstead

Approving Official

Name: Bruce Halstead

Date: July 12, 1989

Title: Acting Field Supervisor

APPENDIX A

LIST OF RCRA SITES IN FULTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY AND LAKE/OBION
COUNTIES, TENNESSEE

Fulton County, KY

1. Midway Fabricating Company, 801 West Highland Dr., Fulton, KY 42041

Lake County, Tennessee

1. Georgia Gulf Corporation, P.O. Box 338, Highway 21 West,
Tiptonville, TN 38079

Obion County, Tennessee

1. Superior Enterprises Inc., 915 N. First, Union City, TN 38261
2. Texas Gas Transmission Corp., 3 mi North on US Hwy 45W, Kenton, TN 38233
3. Thomas Plating Inc., 202 Gin Street, South Fulton, TN 38257
4. Waymatic Inc., P.O. Box 409, KEN-TENN Road, South Fulton, TN 38257
5. A-1 Body Shop, 114 Westgate Dr., Union City, TN 38261
6. Agrico Chemical Co., P.O. Box 158, N. 4th St., Union City, TN 38261
7. Blue Bell Cleaners and Laundry, 111 S. Div. St., Union City, TN 38261
8. Bryon Custom Plastics, P.O. Box 155, 515 N. Poplar, Kenton, TN 38233
9. Collision Specialty, Hwy 51 South, Union City, TN 38261
10. Dunn's Body Shop Inc., 2103 West Main St., Union City, TN 38261
11. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., P.O. Box 570, MT Zion Road, Union City, TN 38261
12. K & J Body Shop, 701 E. State Line Road, South Fulton, TN 38257
13. Kenton Custom Molding, 320 North Main, Kenton, TN 38233
14. Obion Co. Education Dept., 300 West College St., Kenton, TN 38233
15. Rainbow Cleaners & Laundry, 419 N. First Street, Union City, TN 38261
16. Sherwin Williams Co., 106 N. First St., Union City, TN 38261
17. South Central Bell, South Street, Kenton, TN 38233
18. Southern Machine Repair, P.O. Box 809, Airport Road, Union City, TN 38261

19. Sta-Rite Industries Inc., P.O. Box 1019, Char-Gale Dr., Union City,
TN 38261

APPENDIX B

PREACQUISITION CONTAMINANT SURVEY FORMS FOR LANDS PROPOSED FOR
INCLUSION INTO REELFOOT AND LAKE ISOM NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Site Proposed New Lands For Reelfoot NWR County Fulton State Kentucky

Signed R. Mark Wilson Print name Mark Wilson

Date 5/31/89 Phone (615) 528-6481 Title Contaminant Specialist

Onsite Nearby None

A. Site Inspection Screen: On-site and nearby

- | | | | |
|--|----------|---|----------|
| 1. Dumps, especially with drums, containers (Read labels if possible; do not open or handle! If no labels, note identifying characteristics) | <u>1</u> | — | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Other debris: household, farm, industrial waste | <u>3</u> | — | — |
| 3. Fills: possible cover for dumps | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Unusual chemical odors | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Storage tanks: petroleum products, pesticides, etc | <u>2</u> | — | — |
| 6. Buildings: Chemical storage, equipment repair, solvents | <u>2</u> | — | — |
| 7. Modified vegetation, no obvious reason | — | — | — |
| early succession; bare ground | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 8. "Sterile" or modified water bodies | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Oil seeps, stained ground, discolored stream banks | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 10. Oil slicks on water, unusual colors in water | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 11. Spray operation base: air strip, equipment parking area | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 12. Machinery repair areas | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 13. Pipelines; major electrical equipment | — | — | <u>X</u> |
| 14. Oiled or formerly oiled roads | — | — | <u>X</u> |

B. Record Searches (Coordinate with Realty, title search, FMHA, as appropriate.)

1. Past uses of site (CIRCLE any that are applicable.)
Manufacturing, service stations, dry cleaning, air strip, pipelines, rail lines, facilities with large electrical transformers or pumping equipment, petroleum production, scrap metal, auto, or battery recycling, military, labs, wood preserving, other _____ None X
2. Nearby land uses, especially upstream or upgradient, or that might have had waste to dump at site
(see list under Past Uses) Identify: _____ None X
3. Known contaminant sites in vicinity: NPL, State sites, candidate sites (check with EPA; State EPA counterpart) Yes _____ No X
4. Interviews on past use: owner, neighbors, County agents: Problems? _____ No X
5. Agricultural drainage history: surface, subsurface drains
(NOTE: Agricultural drainage is not Superfund question.) Yes _____ No X
6. Flooding potential: possible deposition of contaminants from off-site? Yes _____ No X
7. Interview with local game warden: Past history of die-offs or disease that may be associated with contaminants? Yes _____ No X

C. Farm Bill; other Federal sites: FMHA or agency made certification under section 120(h) of Superfund? Not Applicable _____ Yes _____ No X

Date 5/31/89 Phone (615) 528-6481 Title Contaminant Specialist

Onsite Nearby None

A. Site Inspection Screen: On-site and nearby

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|---|
| 1. Dumps, especially with drums, containers (Read labels if possible; do not open or handle! If no labels, note identifying characteristics) | — | — | X |
| 2. Other debris: household, farm, industrial waste | — | — | X |
| 3. Fills: possible cover for dumps | — | — | X |
| 4. Unusual chemical odors | — | — | X |
| 5. Storage tanks: petroleum products, pesticides, etc | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | — |
| 6. Buildings: Chemical storage, equipment repair, solvents | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | — |
| 7. Modified vegetation, no obvious reason
early succession; bare ground | — | — | X |
| 8. "Sterile" or modified water bodies | — | — | X |
| 9. Oil seeps, stained ground, discolored stream banks | — | — | X |
| 10. Oil slicks on water, unusual colors in water | — | — | X |
| 11. Spray operation base: air strip, equipment parking area | — | — | X |
| 12. Machinery repair areas | <u>2</u> | <u>1</u> | — |
| 13. Pipelines; major electrical equipment | — | — | X |
| 14. Oiled or formerly oiled roads | — | — | X |

B. Record Searches (Coordinate with Realty, title search, FMHA, as appropriate.)

1. Past uses of site (CIRCLE any that are applicable.)
 Manufacturing, service stations, dry cleaning, air strip,
 pipelines, rail lines, facilities with large electrical
 transformers or pumping equipment, petroleum production,
 scrap metal, auto, or battery recycling, military, labs,
 wood preserving, other _____ None X
2. Nearby land uses, especially upstream or upgradient, or that
 might have had waste to dump at site
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3. Known contaminant sites in vicinity: NPL, State sites,
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 or disease that may be associated with contaminants? Yes _____ No X

C. Farm Bill, other Federal sites: FMHA or agency made certification

under section 120(h) of Superfund? Not Applicable Yes No ☒

